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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/653,524	09/02/2003	Malcolm David Mac Farlane	66016.111	3345

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Robin A. Brooks
Brooks Law Firm, LLC
Suite 100-515
25 Highland Park Village
Dallas, TX 75205

EXAMINER

PATEL, NIKETA I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2181

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/653,524

Applicant(s)

MAC FARLANE, MALCOLM DAVID

Examiner

Niketa I. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8, 10, 11, 13, 23, 29, 32, 34, 36 and 38 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 12, 14-22, 24-28, 30, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Species I (Figure 1, claims 1-43) in the reply filed on 01/16/2007 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that Figures 1, 2C, 2D, 3, 4, 6A, 6B, 7A and 7B are directed to different parts of the same thing. Only Figures 5A and 5B are directed toward alternatives. This is not found persuasive because Figures 7A and 7B as well as Figures 5A and 5B are directed to different embodiments of the invention. The claims 8, 10, 11, 13, 23, 29, 32, 34, 36 and 38 do not read on the elected Species I drawn to Figure 1 therefore, these claims are withdrawn from further consideration. However, claims 8, 10, 11, 13, 23, 29, 32, 34, 36 and 38 will be rejoined, should the independent claims 1 and 15 advance to allowance. The claims 1-7, 9, 12, 14-22, 24-28, 30-31, 33, 35, 37, 39-43 are examined bellow.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant is requested to update the status of the copending U.S. Patent Application listed on the first page of the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-7, 9, 12, 14-22, 24-28, 30-31, 33, 35, 37, 39-43 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In general claims are poorly written, for example: claim 1, lines 10-13; claim 15, lines 10-12 and claim 43, 10-13 recites, '...operable to cause analog signals to be transmitted from the first input to the voice communication device from the sound card output'. It is unclear as to what the applicant intends to claim by reciting this limitation.

Furthermore, the independent claims 1, 15 and 43 appear to be incomplete since the structural cooperative relationships between the elements 'first input', 'first output' and the 'control circuitry'; 'audio adapter', 'sound card output', 'sound card input' and 'control circuitry' are omitted, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections.

The dependent claims 2-7, 9, 12, 14, 16-22, 24-28, 30-31, 33, 35, 37, 39-42 inherit the same deficiency due to the dependency on independent claims 1 and 15.

Claims 26 and 42 recites the limitation "wherein controls are" and "an adapter" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Various types of controls are claimed throughout the claim language, which makes it unclear as to which control is referenced by this limitation. Also, is 'an adapter housing' different then the audio adapter recited in the independent claims 1, 15?

Furthermore, through out the claim language of the dependent claims a term "the analog signals" is frequently recited. It is unclear as to which 'analog signals' are being referred to since the independent claims 1, 15 and 43 recite numerous 'analog signals'.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. As far as the examiner can interpret the claims in light of the 35 USC § 112 rejection supra, claims 1, 3-7, 9, 12, 14-15, 17-22, 24-28, 30-31, 33, 35, 37, 39-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Juskiewicz et al. U.S. Patent Number: 6,353,169 B1 (hereinafter "*Juskiewicz*".)

8. **Referring claims 1, 15, 43, *Juskiewicz*** teaches, in taking claims 1 as exemplary, an audio voice control system, comprising: a. first input switchably coupled to a sound card output at first selection circuitry of an audio adapter [see figure 1, elements 17, 22, 28, 12, 14, 18; figure 2, element 27 and column 33, lines 57-67 and column 5, lines 40-67; column 34, lines 1-6 – various types of instruments are connected to a hub which is then connected to the laptop and the sound board, each of the instruments are switchably coupled since the system allows one to choose a desired instrument]; b. a first output switchably coupled to a sound card input at second selection circuitry of the audio adapter [see figure 1, elements 17, 22, 28, 12, 14, 18 and column 33, lines 57-67 and column 5, lines 40-67; column 34, lines 1-6]; and c. a voice communication device coupled to and operable to activate control circuitry, the voice communication device further operable to receive and to transmit analog signals to the control circuitry [see figure 1, elements 12, 14, 18; figure 2, element 27 and column 5, lines 40-67; column 34, lines 13-17;

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column 36, lines 36-59 – both digital and analog signals can be used]; wherein the control circuitry is coupled to the first selection circuitry, the second selection circuitry, and the voice communication device [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 34, lines 13-17; column 36, lines 36-59], and is operable to cause analog signals to be transmitted from the first input to the voice communication device from the sound card output and to cause analog signals to be transmitted from the voice communication device through the first output to the sound card input when activated for voice communication [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 34, lines 13-17; column 36, lines 36-59], and to cause analog signals to be transmitted from input circuitry to the sound card input and to cause analog signals to be transmitted from the sound card output to the output circuitry when activated for a music session, the input circuitry being operable to receive analog signals from at least one of a microphone and a musical instrument [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 34, lines 13-17; column 36, lines 36-59.]

9. **Referring to claims 3, 17,** *Juszkiewicz* teaches wherein at least one of the first selection circuitry and the second selection circuitry comprises circuitry from one of the group consisting of a multiplexer and a switch [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20; column 36, lines 36-59.]

10. **Referring to claims 4, 18,** *Juszkiewicz* teaches wherein the first input is releasably switchably coupled to the sound card output at the first selection circuitry, and the first output is releasably switchably coupled to the sound card input at the second selection circuitry [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20; column 36, lines 36-59.]

11. **Referring to claims 5, 20,** *Juszkiewicz* teaches wherein the output circuitry is operable to maintain resistive isolation of the analog signals transmitted to the sound card input from the

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analog signals transmitted from the sound card output to the output circuitry [see column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20 – control board allows one to select an audio from plurality of instrument therefore it is resistively isolating one audio signal from that of the other instruments.]

12. **Referring to claims 6, 35**, *Juszkiewicz* teaches wherein the output circuitry is operable to maintain resistive isolation of the analog signals from the at least one of the microphone and the musical instrument from the analog signals transmitted from the sound card output to the output circuitry [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

13. **Referring to claims 7, 19**, *Juszkiewicz* teaches wherein the analog signals caused by the control circuitry to be transmitted from the first input to the voice communication device from the sound card output when activated for voice communication comprise signals converted from digital voice communication data received from a computer coupled to the sound card input and the sound card output [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

14. **Referring to claim 9**, *Juszkiewicz* teaches wherein the voice communication device is releasably coupled to the control circuitry [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

15. **Referring to claims 12, 37**, *Juszkiewicz* teaches wherein the voice communication device comprises a headset [see figure 2, element 27 and column 34, lines 13-15.]

16. **Referring to claims 14, 39**, *Juszkiewicz* teaches further comprising volume monitoring circuitry coupled to the sound card output and the first selection circuitry and operable to monitor at least one parameter of the analog signals transmitted to the first input, the at least one

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parameter being selected from the group consisting of amplitude and frequency [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

17. **Referring to claims 21, 28, 40,** *Juszkiewicz* teaches which is operable to control the receiving, processing, and routing of digital voice communication data from communication ports, and to control the receiving, processing, and routing of analog voice data for transmission in digital form to communication ports [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

18. **Referring to claims 22, 41,** *Juszkiewicz* teaches which is operable to control the receiving, processing, and routing of digital voice communication data from sound card output and to control the receiving, processing, and routing of analog voice data to sound card input [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

19. **Referring to claims 24, 30,** *Juszkiewicz* teaches wherein the control circuitry is activated by inputs from the group consisting of voice commands, programmable key pads, wireless technologies, electromechanical buttons and switches, and voice controlled hand and foot controllers [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

20. **Referring to claims 25, 31,** *Juszkiewicz* teaches further comprising a third output coupled to the control circuitry and releasably coupled to a computer, wherein the control circuitry is operable to send voice computer control commands to the computer [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

21. **Referring to claims 26, 42,** *Juszkiewicz* teaches wherein controls are coupled to an adapter housing to allow the control switching to be performed within the adapter [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

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22. Referring to claim 27, *Juszkiewicz* teaches wherein the control circuitry is operable to control the receiving, processing, and routing of analog voice data [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

23. Referring to claim 33, *Juszkiewicz* teaches further comprising releasably coupling the voice communication device to the control circuitry [see column 5, lines 40-67; column 33, lines 57-67; column 34, lines 1-20.]

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

24. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

25. Claims 2, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Juszkiewicz* as applied to claims 1, 15 above, and further in view of Radomski U.S Patent Number: 6,507,790B1 (hereinafter "*Radomski*").

26. Referring to claims 2, 16, *Juszkiewicz* teaches the limitations recited in claims 1 and 15, however does not set forth the limitation of wherein the input circuitry is further operable to perform common mode rejection on the analog signals from the at least one of the microphone and the musical instrument. *Radomski* teaches to perform common mode rejection on the analog signals [see column 8, lines 41-52] in order to improve audio/sound quality.

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention would have clearly recognized that it is quite advantageous for the system of *Juszkiewicz* to be able to provide better

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sound quality by performing common mode rejection on the analog signals. It is for this reason that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to implement common mode rejection on the analog signals to improve audio/sound quality.

Conclusion

27. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following documents have been made record of to further show the state of the art as it pertains to computer controlled musical instruments:

Braun et al. U.S. Patent Number: 6,416,482 B1

Robison et al. U.S. Patent Number: 5,402,499

Mitchell et al. U.S. Patent Number: 5,799,273

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Niketa I. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272 4156. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571) 272 4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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Examiner:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Niketa Patel", written over the printed name.

Niketa Patel
03/29/2007